

COURSE SYLLABUS

WORLD HISTORY FROM PREHISTORY TO THE RENAISSANCE

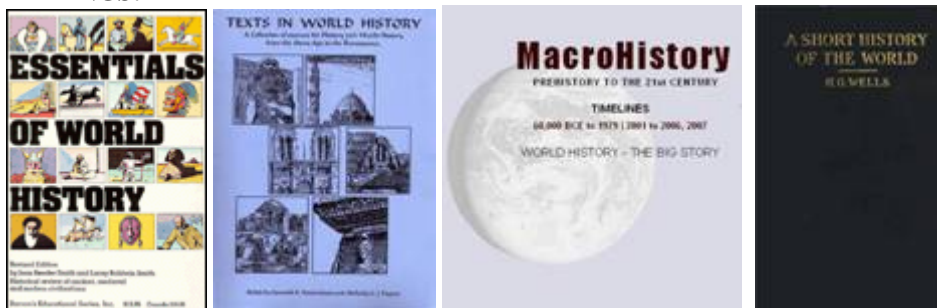
HIS265.02 (CID: 4508)--MWF 11:00-11:50AM--AB4 202

(3 credit hours)

Professor: Nicholas Pappas

Contact Information: Office, AB4 474; e-mail, HIS_NCP@shsu.edu; Office phone, 936-294-3617; Office Hours, Monday & Wednesday, 1:00–3:00 pm; Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-12:30.

REQUIRED READINGS:



J. R. and L. B. Smith, *Essentials of World History*. Hauppauge, N.Y.; Barrons Educational Series, 1980. (*Essentials*). This is the basic outline text and an aid to help you prepare for exams.

***Texts in World History I*, Edited by Kenneth E. Hendrickson and Nicholas C. J. Pappas –**This collection of Primary Sources may be purchased through the History Department.

MacroHistory by Frank Smitha. (Smitha). These are web-based textbooks and interpretations of World History. Chapters from these works are given as links at the beginning of each READINGS. The author has a fascinating background, not your normal phuddy-dud. Read his [about this site](#) and [boring details](#).

H.G. Wells, *A Short History of the World*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1922. (Wells) A world history written by one of the fathers of Science Fiction that is old but very interesting

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will acquaint themselves with the political, social, economic and cultural history of the World from earliest times to 1400.

Students will sharpen their skills in historical interpretation and writing.

Students will gain a factual knowledge of World history from Prehistory through the Renaissance.

Students will learn how to find and use available resources for learning material not covered in lectures or text.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the World from earliest times to the Fifteenth Century. It will investigate such areas of history as the cradles of civilization, the empires of Ancient Eurasia, Greece, Rome, China, India, Byzantium, Islam, Western Christendom, the Mongols, developments in Africa and the Americas, Muscovy, the Ottoman Empire, and the Renaissance. It will also attempt to assess the impact of these and other subjects upon today's world. Course work will consist of attending lectures, the taking of map quizzes and objective examinations, and the writing of optional film reviews.

There is no prerequisite for this course beyond the university's approval.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:

The instructional method in class will primarily involve lectures.

The class schedule will consist of 3 fifty-minute sessions each week. Each session is allotted to lectures by the instructor, while a portion of each session might be devoted to questions and discussion, as well as to view films.

Lectures both supplement and complement reading assignments, as well as introduce problems to be brought up in assignments.

Brief outlines of lectures, lectures maps and other supplementary materials will be distributed to students on BLACKBOARD.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: Students are expected to regularly attend lectures and participate actively in classroom discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly. The instructor reserves the right to drop students who have more than three absences.

Reading Assignments: Readings are given on a weekly basis in the Course Schedule and Outline. **The instructor reserves the right to change the readings in the Course Schedule and Outline.**

Examinations : There will be four examinations during the semester. The Examination with the lowest score will be dropped. Each examination will include:

A Multiple Choice section consisting of 10 questions based upon web readings (the multiple choice questions in this section will be based upon quotations taken from the web readings).

A Multiple Choice section consisting of 15 questions based upon lectures and text (the multiple choice questions in this section will be based upon the topics and identification items listed in the exam study page from the lectures and the readings).

A True-False Section consisting of 10 questions based upon lectures and text. (the true/false questions in this section will be based upon the topics and identification items listed in the exam study page from the lectures and the readings).

A Matching Section consisting of 10 items in two groups based upon lectures and text (the matching items in this section will be based upon the topics and identification items listed in the exam study page from the lectures and the readings).

A matching Geography Section consisting of 30 items of three maps (the matching items in this section will be based upon [the maps linked below](#), ten items per map). Each of these items is worth 1 point for a total of 30 exam points.

The lowest score of the four examinations will be dropped.

The remaining three examinations will be worth up to 300 points or 60 percent of the course grade.

- **Optional Film Reviews:**

Students can opt to write up to three movie reviews during the session. These reviews will be based upon viewing films and reading sources related to them. Two reviews can take the place of one of the exam scores.

In each review, students will, one paragraph for each numerical item, give their impressions of the film and answer the following questions.

1. What are your impressions of the Film?
2. How does the film relate to the primary and secondary sources of the web readings?
3. What point of view does the film represent? (what are the film-makers try to say)?
4. What does it contribute to your understanding of world history?
5. Students will give each film a rating on a scale of 1 to 10. Each review and rating will be worth

50 points.

The lowest score of the three film reviews will be dropped.

The remaining two reviews will be worth up to 100 points and can replace the score of one exam. The instructor reserves the right to change the movie review due dates in the Course Schedule and Outline.

- **Required Supplies:**

Notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class, as well as one scantron for the final examinations.

Use of a computer with an internet connection, a word processing program, and a printer is required.

If you do not have these at home, please make use of computer labs on campus.

All assignments and examinations, with the exception of the final, will be due on Blackboard.

Grading Plan:

Examinations will count 300 points of the Course grade. (60%)

Student attendance and participation and participation will count in borderline. The instructor reserves the right to drop students who have more than two absences.

The grade scale will be: 270-300=A; 240-369=B; 210-239=C; 180-209=D; 0-179=F.

Only students who cannot finish the course because of documented health or emergency problems will be allowed a one extension grade of 'X' in order to complete coursework.

Important Links (Please

[Weekly Reading and Assignments Schedule](#)

[Attendance and Conduct Policy](#)

Readings and Assignments Schedule

Weekly chapter reading assignments below refer to Smith, *Essentials in World History*, Hendrickson and Pappas, *Texts in World History*, Smitha, *Macrohistory*, and H.G. Wells, *A Short History of the World*. Please be aware that the lectures and weekly readings will not always be synchronous. By the time you take each exam, however, lectures and readings ought to coincide.

Week 1: A PROLOGUE TO THE STUDY OF WORLD CIVILIZATION. (8/20-24)

- [1\) An Introduction to History and the Early Development of Humankind.](#)
- **READINGS:** *Essentials in World History*, pp. 1-2; Smitha -- [Primitive Religion and the Rise of Agriculture](#); *Texts in World History*, Part I, pp. 1-4; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 1-76.



Week 2: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND EMPIRES OF THE NEAR EAST. (8/27-8/31)

[2\) Mesopotamia and Egypt.](#)

[3\) Hittites, Assyrians and Persians.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 2-12; Smitha -- [The Sumerians](#) and [Africa and Egypt, to 1750 BCE](#); Smitha -- [New Societies in the Ancient Middle East and The Hebrews between Assyria and Egypt and Babylon, Persia and Judaism](#); *Texts in World History*, Part I, pp. 5-27, 57-64; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 77-90, 97-114.



Week 3: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND EMPIRES OF SOUTH AND EAST ASIA. (9/3-7)

[4\) India.](#)

[5\) China.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 280-288, 314-321, 351-353; Smitha -- [India, Hinduism and Religious Rebellion, to 483 BCE](#) and [Empire, Fragmentation and Salvation in Ancient India](#); Smitha -- [The Rise of Ancient China](#) and [The Rise and Fall of Han China](#); *Texts in World History*, Part I, pp. 28-57; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 156-174.

FIRST FILM REVIEW DUE



Week 4: CIVILIZATIONS IN MINIATURE: KINGDOMS AND CITY STATES. (9/10-14)

[6\) Phoenicians, Sea peoples and Israelites.](#)

FIRST EXAMINATION

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 7-10; Smitha -- [The Hebrews between Assyria and Egypt and Babylon, Persia and Judaism](#) and [Judea and Civil War](#); *Texts in World History*, Part I, pp. 64-80;

Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 91-96, 115-126.

Week 5: GREEK CIVILIZATION. (9/17-21)

7) The Development of Early Greece.

8) Hellenic Greece

9) Hellenistic Greece.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 47-55, 12-13; Smitha -- Europe, Greece, and Philosophy, to 500 BCE, The Greeks to the 4th Century BCE, Ideas from Anaxagoras to Aristotle, Alexander Changes the World and Hellenistic Civilization -- an Almost Modern World; *Texts in World History*, Part I, pp. 80-118; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 91-96, 127-155.

FIRST FILM REVIEW DUE

Week 6: ROMAN CIVILIZATION. (9/24-28)

10) Republican Rome.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 56-58; Smitha -- The Rise of Ancient Rome and Rome Expands its Empire and Wars at Home -- 200 to 79 BCE and Fall of the Roman Republic; *Texts in World History*, Part I, pp. 118-135; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 174-195.

Week 7: THE END OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. (10/1-5)

11) Imperial Rome.

12) Nomadic and Sedentary Worlds.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 58-64; Smitha -- Caligula, Nero and Family -- the Julio-Claudians and Rome, from Golden Age to Political Chaos and Rome's Decline and Christianity's Ascent and Christian Emperors, Persia, and the Fall of Rome and Augustine Influences Christianity and Persia and Its Religious Mix, to 300 CE and Persia, Christians and a Communist Uprising. *Texts in World History*, Part I, pp. 136-180; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 196-237.

Week 8: WESTERN CHRISTENDOM. (10/8-12)

SECOND EXAMINATION

13) Western Christendom: Its Birth and Growing Pains.

14) Manorialism and Feudalism.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 64-68; Smitha -- Remnants of the Roman Empire: The Warlords of Europe, to 1050 and England, from Arthur to William of Normandy; Munro--Feudalism and The Peasants; *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 1-28, 152-155; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 258-267.

Week 9: EASTERN CHRISTENDOM AND ISLAM. (10/15-19)

15) Byzantine Civilization and Early Russia.

16) The Rise of Islam in the Near East, 600-1400.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 13-22, 150-152; Smitha -- Justinian's War for the Second Coming and Persia and Constantinople Make Way for Islam and Arabs, Muhammad and Islamic Empire, to 680 and Islam Expands and Fragments; *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 28-71; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 238-244, 248-252.

Week 10: SOUTH AND EAST ASIA IN THE MIDDLE AGES. (10/22-26)

17) India and South Asia.

18) China.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 288-290, 321-324; Smitha -- Rise and Fall of the Gupta Empire and India, from 500 to 1200 CE and China, Korea and Japan, to 500 CE and China, Monarchy and Confucianism, to 1126; *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 71-92; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. .

SECOND FILM REVIEW DUE

Week 11: EAST ASIA AND AFRICA IN THE MIDDLE AGES. (10/29-11/2)

19) Japan.

20) Africa.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 353-358, 377-381, 397-403; Smitha -- China, Korea and Japan, to 500 CE and Japan, Buddhism and Military Aristocracies and The Americas, Africa,

[Southeast Asia and Oceania, to 500 CE](#); *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 93-130; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 245-247.



Week 12 : DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AMERICAS AND OCEANIA. (11/5-9)

THIRD EXAMINATION

[21\) The Americas and Oceania.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 254-257; Smitha -- [The Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia and Oceania, to 500 CE](#); *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 131-151; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. .



Week 13: HOLY WARS, STEPPE EMPIRES & THE UNIFICATION OF EURASIA. (11/12-16)

[17\) Expansion of Western Christendom--Towns, Trade, and Crusades..](#)

[22\) The Mongol Impact Upon Asia and Europe](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 68-70, 128, 153, 289, 321-323, 324, 326, 357, 380; Smitha -- [Europe, Church and Economic Growth, to 1300](#) and [Genghis Khan, the Mongols and Asia, to 1300 and China, Mongols and the Ming Dynasty](#); *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 93-113, 155-162; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 267-276, 287-294.



Week 14: THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY: AN ERA OF CRISIS & TRANSITION IN EUROPE. (11/20)

[23\) The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. ; Smitha -- [Timur and the Ottoman Turks; and Christendom in the 14th and 15th Centuries](#); *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 163-189; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 277-296.



Week 15: THE WORLD IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. (11/26-30)

[24\) Political, Social and Economic Developments.](#)

[25\) Cultural Developments--The World and the Origin of the Renaissance.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 70-78; Smitha --[Christendom in the 14th and 15th Centuries](#); *Texts in World History*, Part II, pp. 163-189; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 294-304.

THIRD FILM REVIEW DUE



Week 16: CONCLUSION AND STUDY SESSIONS. (12/3-12/5)

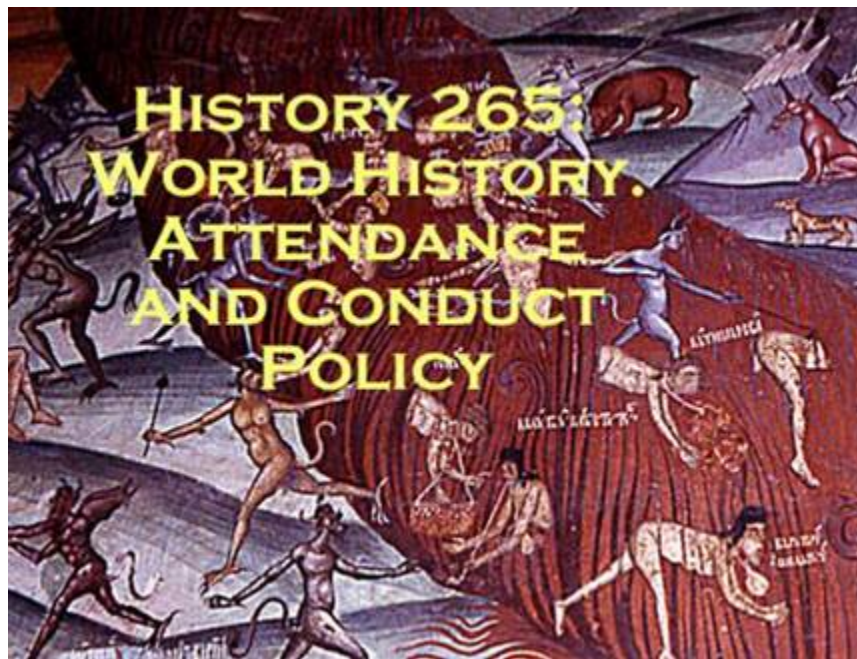
[26\) The World on the Eve of European Expansion.](#)

Study Sessions

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 70-76; Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 294-304.\



FOURTH EXAMINATION will be held during Finals Week, 12/12-12/16 and will be announced later in the semester.



ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance for this course is mandatory.

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student in the class.
2. I will keep a record of student attendance.
3. I reserve the right to penalize a student for excessive absences. You may miss **three (3)** classes without penalty—no excuses necessary. After three non-penalty absences, however, you must provide documentation (to my satisfaction) for any additional absences, **as well as** the three non-penalty absences,. Three absences can result in withdrawal from the class. I reserve the right to drop students who have more than three absences.
4. Only absences with legitimate written excuses (doctor's note, etc.) will be considered for exception to the above policy.
5. Absence on Religious Holidays: Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall allow a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day. Refer to the Academic Calendar for the deadline date for notification by students to the faculty members of the student's intent to be absent on religious holy days.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: According to Academic Policy Statement 810213 of SHSU:

The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

"Cheating" includes:

Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.

Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.

Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.

Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.

Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test.

Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.

"Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

"Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 810213, I may impose failure or reduction of a grade in an assignment or the course, and/or performing additional academic work not required of other students in the course. If I believe that additional disciplinary action is necessary, I may refer the offending student to the Dean of Student Life or his designated appointee for further action.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT: According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook of SHSU:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

We will strictly and assiduously enforce this policy.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: According to the Faculty Handbook of SHSU:

In the event an unannounced visitor attends a class, the instructor should request identification in the form of a current and official Sam Houston State University identification card. If the visitor is not a registered Sam Houston State University student, the instructor should act at his/her own discretion or refer the visitor to the department chair. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the instruction thereof.